



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***CASTILLEJA CERVINA*** **DEER INDIAN PAINTBRUSH**

Deer Indian Paintbrush is a hemiparasitic perennial, with clustered, erect, branched stems that are 30-60 cm high and which arise from a branched rootcrown. The lower leaves are linear and entire-margined, while the upper leaves have a pair of spreading lobes. Foliage is glabrous or has minute, curled hairs. Flowers are borne in a spike at the top of the stems. Each flower is subtended by a 3-5-lobed leaf-like bract, which is broader than the leaves with yellowish tips. The yellow, tubular corolla is 18-25 mm long and tapers to the galea above and to 3 small lobes below. The tubular calyx is 15-20 mm long, surrounds the corolla and is cleft more deeply below than above; each of the lateral lobes divide again into 2 pointed lobes that are 2-3 mm long. The fruit is a capsule with many tiny seeds. Flowering and fruiting in July.

Among yellow-flowered *CASTILLEJA* in our area, *C. PALLESCENS* and *C. CUSICKII* have glandular hairs on the galea, but *C. CERVINA* does not. *C. RUSTICA* and *C. LUTESCENS* have calyces that are divided equally above and below. *C. FLAVA* has foliage with longer, straight hairs. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.